

Outdoor Rec / Local

Ducks Unlimited holds another successful banquet

BY TODD ARRIOLA
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Another successful Baker County Ducks Unlimited (DU) Annual Banquet and Auction was held at Community Connection, 2810 Cedar Street, Baker City, on Saturday, November 19, 2016, showcasing once again the spirit of volunteerism and support from the community.

DU Southeast Oregon District/Baker City Chapter Chairman Bob Mason was joined by, among others, DU Committee Members John Anderson, Rocky and Karen Desimini, Cliff Curtis, Dick Haines, Noel, Laura, Andrew, and Amy Livingston, Don Hanna, Ken O'Neal, Ryan Amundson, Ethan Farnam, and Bill Tipton, DU State Chairman Michael Maaranen, DU Regional Director John Stanfield, and Auctioneer Wayne Overton.

The doors opened at 5 p.m., and Mason already predicted that the event would be well-attended, since it was noted that over 100 had already signed up for the banquet (there were 130 attendees last year, and Mason usually sees an increase in number each time).

Registration included a single meal, at \$45; a couple (two) meal, at \$70; a Greenwing (17 and under; Greenwing under 5 ate for free) meal, at \$30; a sponsor single meal, at \$325; and a sponsor couple (two) meal, at \$350. The meal registrations included a membership, and a subscription to the Ducks Unlimited magazine.

Attendees mingled, while they browsed the various live auction and silent auction items, played some of the DU games, entered raffle drawings,



Todd Arriola / The Baker County Press

Tables of games and auction items were a hit at this year's banquet.

and enjoyed some snacks provided by the Oregon Trail Restaurant, which included meats and cheeses, and some adult beverages, provided by Barley Brown's Brew Pub (the Oregon Trail and Barley's have both provided food and drinks in past years, for this event).

Donators for the silent auction included Gregg Hinrichsen, Cliff's Saws and Cycles, Farm Industrial Services, Baker Electric, Grumpy's Repair, The Bow Shop, Terry Schliach, Jim and Sue Fuller, Skip Stiglich, and Rebecca Mancino Litke. Donators for the live auction included Terry Schlaich, the Mackenzie Ranch, Clarke & Clarke Insurance, Randy Guyer, Triple C Ready-Mix, Crave-A-Bowl Grill, Marvin Wood Products, The Windshield Doctor, Black Distributing, Bob Reedy, and John Anderson.

The dinner, served buffet-style at 6 p.m. to the hungry crowd, by the crew of the Oregon Trail Restaurant, included prime rib, ham, duck, potatoes, green beans, rice, dinner rolls, Italian salad, pasta salad, and desserts.

Entertainment and fundraising included the live auction, the silent auction, and the raffle, game, and bonus drawings.

In a written statement to guests, Mason said, "The largest percentage of Ducks Unlimited conservation funding comes from local businesses, just like ours. As a Ducks Unlimited supporter, you can be proud of your involvement and of all of our efforts contributing towards the conservation of wetlands. The committee hopes you will enjoy the 2016 Banquet and thanks you for your support to Ducks Unlimited. The committee

also hopes you will join us for future Ducks Unlimited activities. Ask any one of the committee members here tonight about becoming a volunteer on our local chapter. The banquet is possible only through the businesses and individuals who have contributed merchandise, cash and work toward this banquet. Please continue to support them and Ducks Unlimited, as well."

The organization has raised over \$1.279 billion to restore or enhance nearly 12 million acres of wetland throughout North America. In Oregon, DU has spent \$17.5 million over the past five years, conserving over 70,000 acres of wetlands. Current DU projects include several in Baker and Union counties. One is the Ladd Marsh Project, which has restored 1,500 acres of wetlands near La Grande.

Swimmers compete in Boise meet

SUBMITTED BY NOEL SCOTT

Both the Baker Swim Team and La Grande Swim Club attended the Boise Thanksgiving Invitational Swim Meet held November 18-20. There were 584 athletes representing 21 teams from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada and Utah. Baker had seven athletes attend, and La Grande sent 11 swimmers. Both teams competed very well. The following are the results from the two La Grande swimmers with Baker City ties.

Jared Miller

- 15 & Over 400 IM 1st
- 15 & Over 500 Free 2nd
- 15 & Over 200 Back 1st
- 15 & Over 200 Free 4th
- 15 & Over 100 Fly 6th
- 15 & Over 100 Back 1st
- 15 & Over 100 Free 4th
- 15 & Over 200 IM 2nd

Riana Scott

- 13-14 400 IM 4th
- 13-14 200 Back 6th
- 13-14 100 Breast 1st
- 13-14 50 Free 4th
- 13-14 100 Back 8th
- 13-14 200 Breast 1st
- 13-14 200 IM 4th

In the team scores, La Grande men placed 7th overall, La Grande women 6th. Baker men's team placed 15th, women 14th.

Oregon Coast crabbing on hold for now

The traditional Dec. 1 opening of the commercial Dungeness crab season along the entire Oregon coast will be delayed due to concerns about domoic acid levels in some areas. During recent testing, domoic acid in crab viscera from the Garibaldi area was above the alert level that normally triggers action. In addition, the overall trend indicates domoic acid in other areas may be increasing as well.

Based on these results and consultations with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), the Oregon commercial Dungeness crab industry, and Washington and California departments of Fish and Wildlife, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is exercising an abundance of caution and delaying the ocean commercial Dungeness crab season along the entire Oregon coast.

"Oregon's commercial crab industry and the department place a high priority on making sure that seafood consumers can be confident that they are buying a safe, high-quality and sustainable product when they purchase Oregon Dungeness crab," said Caren Braby, ODFW Marine Resource Program Manager.

ODFW will continue to work closely with ODA and the Oregon commercial Dungeness crab industry to test crab along the coast to ensure an opening of the commercial crab season on safe and high quality crab. In close coordination with ODA and the Oregon commercial Dungeness crab industry, ODFW plans to evaluate options for opening the commercial season once additional domoic acid test results are available.

Despite the delay, crab and shellfish products sold in retail markets and restaurants remain safe for consumers.

All recreational and commercial harvest of Dungeness and red rock crab in Oregon's bays is currently closed south of Tillamook Head (just south of Seaside) due to elevated levels of domoic acid. The opening of recreational crab harvest in the ocean and bays will be decided pending additional domoic acid testing.

Domoic acid or amnesic shellfish toxin can cause minor to severe illness and even death. Severe poisoning can result in dizziness, headaches, vomiting and diarrhea. More severe cases can result in memory loss and death. Shellfish toxins are produced by algae and originate in the ocean. Toxins cannot be removed by cooking, freezing or any other treatment. For more information on toxin closures, call ODA's shellfish safety information hotline at (800) 448-2474 or visit the ODA shellfish closures web page at: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Food-Safety/Shellfish/Pages/ShellfishClosures.aspx>.

Meeting to be held with USFS

The Baker County Board of Commissioners will hold a coordination meeting with members of the Wallowa Whitman National Forest on Monday, December 5, 2016, beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the Baker County Courthouse located at 1995 Third Street, Baker City, Oregon 97814. Baker County operates under an EEO policy and complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Assistance is available for individuals with disabilities by calling 541-523-8200 (TTY: 541-523-8201).

Youth Shoot

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For age group 12-13, Baile Griggs placed first, with 100, and six bullseyes; Hank Foersterling

placed second, with 98, and eight bullseyes; Mason Fortin placed third, with 98, and five bullseyes; and Kyler Hester placed fourth, with 98, and three bullseyes.

For age group 14-15, Chaz Williams placed first, with 99, and six bullseyes; Hunter Long placed second, with 98, and four bullseyes; Gunner Hull placed third, with 98, and two bullseyes; and Clayton Hickman placed fourth, with 98, and two bullseyes (Hull and Hickman competed in a shoot-off for positions).

Prizes for the top shooters in each group included Ruger 10/22 rifles, plus .22 ammunition (the rifles were provided to each winner for photo opportunities, and then returned, in order to be transferred properly).

Other awarded prizes included flashlights, gift certificates, knives, and the door prize, a Savage .22 rifle, donated by Ross Bond (Sword noted, among other donations, this one, a personal donation of \$300 from Rusty Little, and over \$500 each, from Dan Sword, Sword's Lawn Care, and Kevin Logsdon).

The Youth Shoot was sponsored by Kevin Logsdon, of York's Covered Wagon Grocery and Sporting Goods, Sword's Lawn Care, Dan Sword and family, Black Distributing, Rusty and Kerri Little, and Ross Bond.

Sword said, "We had a lot of things donated this year...We had some excellent shooters; they did great."

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